A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE ENGLISH NATION.

Saturday, July 20. 1706.

'TIS very hard, that when we had no News at all for Weeks and Months together, or at least none good for any thing; we were more contented than we are now——The Flux of Success had so surfeited our Fancies, that we wanted a Continuation of the Strain to keep up our Spirits.

Matter of Fact failing, as well, it might to answer such an Exuberance of Expectation, Invention supplies, and away we run with *Newport* a Horse-back, a Battle in *Italy*, tell the Number of the Slain and of the Prisoners, and how far Prince *Eugene* has advanc'd, and how fast *Vendosme* marches after; nor is this all, but *Dendermond* capitulates, *Cadiz* declares, *Xeres* is up in Arms, and the like—And how foolish we look, when it appears, that none of all these things are true!

Certainly they that thought every thing would fall into our hands of course, and that all the strong Towns in *Flanders* would yield without Blows, *forced us, their Warmth appear'd greater than their Discretion*, and only prepar'd for their own Disappointments.

Extremes on all sides are both foolish and dangerous; for till this good News reviv'd them a little, these Gentlemen appear'd as much cast down, as they were elevated before; and because every Post did not bring News of the Surrender of Towns, Victories gain'd, and the like, they are uneasie; and we begin already to hear them cry out, the Duke of *Marlborough* lies still and does nothing; The Duke of *Savoy* will be ruin'd, and the taking of *Turin* will unravel all our Victories, and give a new Turn to our Affairs.

Thus

Thus the Tide of vulgar Opinion runs always rapid, whether it be backward or forward; and Men will not judge with Moderation, any more than they will act with it.

His Grace the Duke of *Marlborough* has brought himself into a new Premunire with these People, for if He does not now present us with a Town or a Victory once a Week or oftner, they will not easily be pleas'd; and this was apparent, till the News of the taking of *Ostend* came in, we look'd as dull and as heavy, as if things were not well with us, because they did not go on our pace, and yet all Men must allow, they have gone on faster, than could in reason be expected; and here is a Town taken in 8 Days Attack, that Cost 3 Years, and 7000 Men once before to reduce.

'Tis true, *and I told you so before*, the *French* will not fly any faster than they are driven; they will collect all their Strength to make a Stand, they will defend their Frontiers, and lose their Ground by Inches; —*Very well*, and what's the Consequence of all this—*Why*, that *you must gain it by inches*, that's all—*Gain it you will*, you will go on to beat them, you see nothing can stop you, *and they see it too*; and tho' Time and Patience is requir'd to the Performance, yet *it will be perform'd*, fear it not— Men of great Spirits *dye hard, and the French* Government is *too great* and *too potent* to fall at once — Few Monarchies in the World could have born two such Victories as *Hocksted* and *Ramellies*; nay, let me add, I question whether the Confederacy could have born them, and I think I may affirm, that it could not.

But expect not, Gentlemen, that *France* will part with any thing without fighting for; that her Officers will be frighted out of her strong Holds with Letters and Messages, as in *Flanders*, where they were embaras'd with false Friends within, as well as Enemies without— Expect not, that the Terror of your Arms should make them lay aside all their Designs, and recall all their Troops, *like the Blood to the Heart*, to defend the Center; they are not a kind of Enemies to be so reduc'd, and what then? Must we despair therefore of reducing them at all? *No, Gentlemen*, 'tis matter of sufficient Joy, that you have weakned their Strength, shock't their Expectations, broken their Measures, and push'd them as you have; Time and the Duke of *Marlborough* will bring *all* to pass, *you can expect*, and you have nothing to do but be patient; you'll soon hear from the Duke again to your Satisfaction, fear it not.

All we can expect, say some, *how do know what we expect? Why that's true too*; but when I say all we can expect, I mean, all we can reasonably expect; If I am ask'd what I mean by that too my Answer will be the same, that I have always insisted upon, (*viz.*) A good PEACE, a firm and solid PEACE, a settled PEACE.

I will never dispute with any body about the Name, let us but have the thing; If *honest Roger*, the *Observator*'s Countryman, will have it be call'd a MUZZLE, with all my Heart; I'll never debate the Term, and saving the Coursenes of the Hieroglyphick, I agree with him exactly; it must be *such a Peace*, as shall *muzzle* the Jaws of Tyranny, and leave no Teeth to bite and devour his Neighbours, nor any Claws to tyrannize over, or tear in pieces his own Subjects.

Indeed, I cannot agree, that it is our Business to dethrone him as a King, either with Respect to our selves, or with Respect to his own People— And I desire to explain my self on that head: As to our selves; 'Tis our Business to reduce his exorbitant Power, as to dethroning him for Tyranny, *that is the proper Business of his own People*, we may assist them without doubt to the regaining their Liberty, because 'tis lawful for them to assume it, and it cannot be unlawful for us, who are in open War with him, to assist them in what it is lawful for them to do without our Assistance.

Nor can I believe, that could we depose the King of *France*, it would at the same time be lawful for us to set up another in his stead, that still belongs to the People; who has never forfeit the Right of chusing their own Governours— The People of *France* upon deposing him, must be call'd to determine who shall reign over them?

As to the *French* being in Love with Tyranny, and fond of Slavery, there is a great deal to be said in Excuse for them, for the

I allow in these last Ages of the Protestant Church in *France*, they were guilty of strange Meanesses that way; yet we must own also, 'tis after their Strength was broken, and that they struggled vigorously for their Liberty in 40 years War with their own Princes, and at last obtain'd it at the dear Price of above 200000 of their Lives, which at least perish'd in that Dispute; and let us not enquire too nicely, how they were rob'd of that Liberty, lest the *English* come in for being Accessaries, and so are reckon'd among the Thieves——

And yet I cannot tell, if it were true, that the *French*, as a Nation or a Protestant People, are in love with Slavery, as has been said, whether they have not a Right to be Slaves, if they please, *and much good may the Choice do them*; if they covet Chains, 'tis pity any body should deny 'em the Pleasure of their Bondage, or force Liberty upon them against their Consent; nor has any body a just Title to do it, no more than they have to take away their Country, and share it among them.

We say, *we fight for the Liberty of* Europe, how then shall we make that good, if we, in case it was in our power to make an absolute Conquest of *France*, should dispossess the Inhabitants of their lawful Right and Inheritance, to divide among our Soldiery?

If then we cannot divide their Land among us, no more can we share the Government of them; that would be to rule them by absolute Power against their own Will; which is Tyranny in its highest Extreme, and would contradict all Declarations of War.

If we fight to restore the Liberty of *Europe, it must be thus*; to restore to the People now oppress'd or invaded by Tyranny, and *French* Exorbitance, the Liberty of possessing their *Nations Rights* and *Property*; the *first* consisting in the free Possession of their Lands and Estates; the *last* in the Right of being govern'd by their own Prince, and their Governments being limited by their own Laws.

This I take to be the Liberty of *Europe*, which we fight for; and which I firmly believe, the QUEEN will have the Honour to restore. This is a *Muzzle* for a *French* Tyrant, the same honest *Roger* tells us of; This is the PEACE, that is firm and solid; that I say with Submission is the End of the War, and farther than which we cannot justly go.

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